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C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 005399

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/21/2015

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [JA](#) [PE](#) [CI](#)

SUBJECT: JAPAN WAITING FOR NEXT GOVERNMENT TO UPGRADE  
RELATIONS

REF: A. LIMA 4861

[1](#)B. LIMA 4842

[1](#)C. TOKYO 6181

Classified By: Political Counselor Alexander Margulies. Reason: 1.4(d)

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[1](#)1. (C) New Japanese Political Counselor Yasushi Noguchi, during a lunch with Polcouns on 12/21, provided the following read-out on the state of Peruvian-Japanese bilateral relations following ex-President Alberto Fujimori's flight from Japan to Chile:

-- The GOJ was astonished by the Peruvian Government's forceful, vocal and negative reaction against Japan following Fujimori's arrival in Chile.

-- Foreign Minister Oscar Murtua's comment that he was, "fed up with Japan," particularly surprised Tokyo, as this was not/not the type of language normally used by an experienced career diplomat.

-- Vice President David Waisman's recommendation that Peru break off diplomatic relations received widespread media coverage in Japan and caused a sensation within the Foreign Ministry. The Japanese Embassy in Lima has sought to explain to Tokyo that Waisman's comments are not taken seriously in Peru (his nickname here is "the little clown"), but GOJ officials focused on his position as Vice President and treated his statements accordingly.

-- Consequently, Prime Minister Koizumi was somewhat taken aback by President Alejandro Toledo's approach to him at the APEC Summit, where Toledo expressed interest in improving relations. "By all means," answered Koizumi in their short exchange, "that is what we have been prepared to do."

-- The Japanese Embassy in Lima's guidance from Tokyo is to do its best to minimize sparks from the Fujimori affair and work towards a slow uptick in bilateral relations. The GOJ, however, distrusts the Toledo Government and is waiting for a successor administration to take office in July before it looks to significantly improve ties.

[1](#)2. (C) BIO NOTE: Noguchi's previous post was Washington. He has a high regard for the United States and clearly misses being involved in Japan's most important bilateral relationship, viewing his assignment to Peru akin to exile in a backwater. He also misses the suburban lifestyle in Bethesda, as well as his family, which is back in Tokyo so that his 11 year-old son can go to a Japanese school. END  
BIO NOTE.

STRUBLE